To Live in Peace

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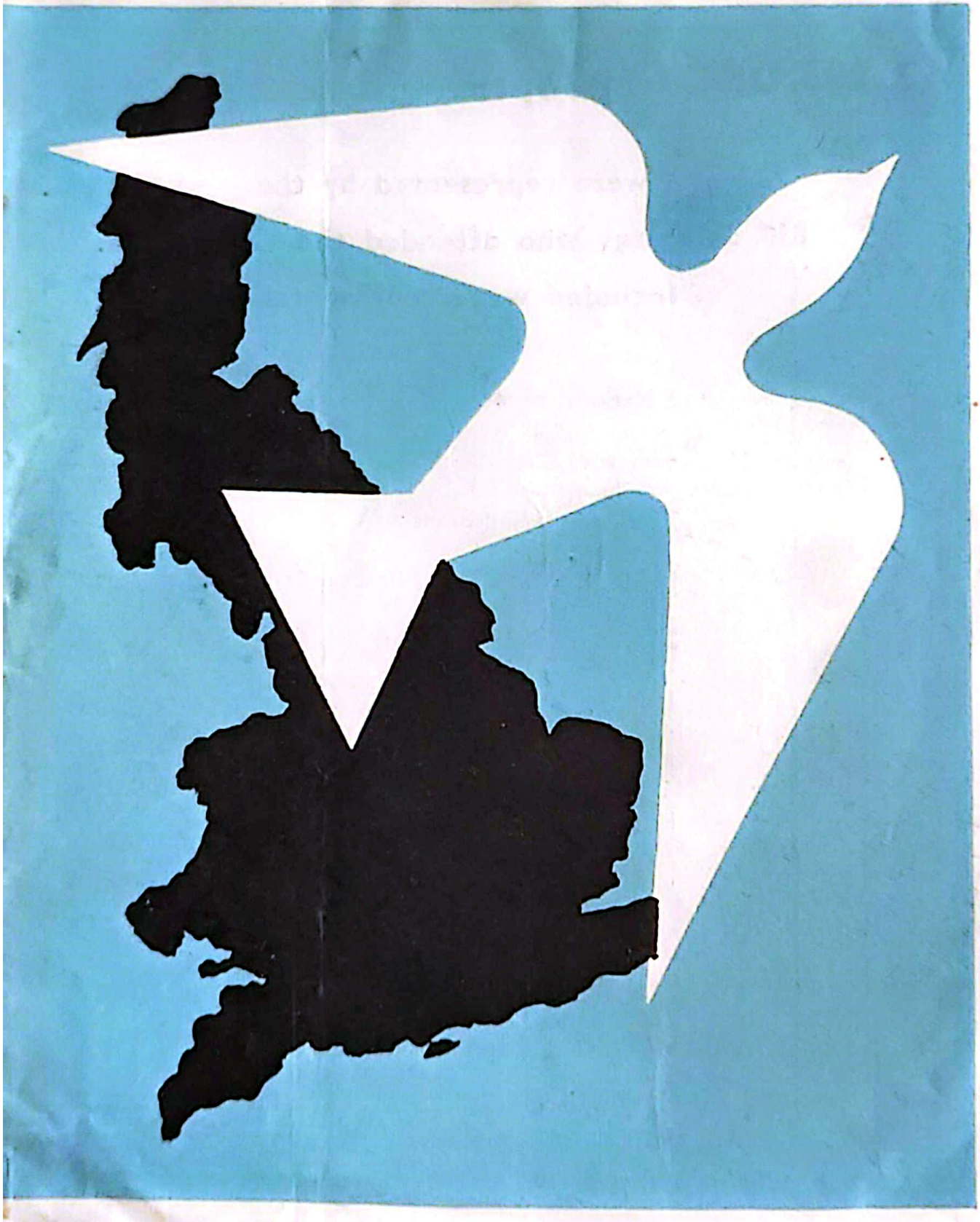

BULLETIN OF THE BRITISH PEACE COMMITTEE · PRICE 3d

ALL BRITAIN PEACE CONFERENCE REPORT

2,233,080 people

were represented by the

830 delegates who attended the Conference.

Included were representatives from:

5 National Executives of Trade Unions

43 Trades Councils

238 Trade Union Branches

19 Shop Stewards Committees and factory groupings

26 Co-operative organisations

10 Youth organisations

19 Women's organisations

121 Peace Committees.

Other delegates represented Ex-Servicemen, Old Age Pensioners, Churches of various denominations, etc.

THEY CHERISH PEACE

"The General Staff of the British Peace Campaign" was how one speaker correctly characterised the All-Britain Peace Conference of 830 delegates and many visitors packed in the large and small Holborn Halls all day Saturday, July 22, and Sunday morning, July 23.

That a gathering so unified in purpose had physically to be divided into two halls was a shame. And *shame* is the word because the cause was discrimination. Bursting with "democratic" fervour the managements of certain large-capacity London halls turned down the British Peace Committee's application to hire their premises. But no matter, it was a magnificent conference.

To start with, it looked so good. Great banners and streamers carrying the main slogans draped the walls, while a series of large paintings vividly told the story of the horrors of war and the virtues of peace.

The atmosphere was peculiarly British. Responding to the present critical world situation the Conference was tense but not hysterical; passionately concerned, but quietly so. The opponents of peace should take warning, for that is the way British people get when they are determined. And these delegates were a true cross-section of the British people, come from the four corners of our island.

They were political and non-political; of all religious denominations; thoughtfully aged and eagerly young fathers, mothers, husbands and wives; manual and professional workers; ex-Servicemen and women; students, scientists, journalists, nurses, firemen, miners, farmworkers, teachers, shop assistants; the man off the street and the celebrity. In common, they cherish peace and have sufficient imagination not to need the experience of atomic warfare to realise its fearfulness.

The graphic painting on platform front expressed the mood of the gathering

Directly under the platform stood the press table, crammed with reporters from every major newspaper and agency.

The Chairman in the main hall was cool, precise, clear-spoken J. G. Crowther, with the Rev. Alex Reid as his deputy.

Meanwhile in the small hall, where the delegates heard speeches from the main hall relayed through loudspeakers, the Rev. C. C. J. Butlin held the reins.

Launching the business at 10 o'clock sharp on Saturday morning, **Mr. J. G. Crowther** expressed the feelings of the whole Conference when he said: "The shadow of the atom bomb hangs very close and darkly over us all." The Peace Petition, based on the Stockholm Appeal, is the way to answer the vital question of how to win peace.

"The task of our Conference is to carry the great act forward, to enable millions and tens of millions of our countrymen and countrywomen to recite this modern prayer, which was composed at Stockholm and which will journey through history beside the Ten Commandments of Moses and the Sermon on the Mount.

"There have been big national peace organisations in the past, but never before have all the national organisations marched together as one world movement. This is the unique feature which gives our fight for peace a power that no peace movement has ever had before.

"The fight for peace transcends all other movements today for two reasons. The first is that the prevention of atomic war is the condition for all social progress. All our activities, whatever they may be, become meaningless if civilisation is destroyed. We cannot do anything if we are no longer alive. The new world will be made by the living, not by the dead. The second reason for the transcendence of our movement is that it is practical. It really is capable of imposing peace!"

GRAVE SITUATION

Delegates applauded **Mr. L. C. White,** General Secretary of the **Civil Service Clerical Association,** when, making the first report to Conference, he opened with these words:

"I am not speaking as a representtative of my Union, but I am quite confident that the views I am expressing represent the views of thousands of people in my own Union, and scores of thousands in other trade unions.

"We meet today in a very grave situation. We know that the threat of war is greater than at any time since the last war ended. Every delegate in this hall and millions of men and women outside are deeply disturbed by the events in Korea, by President Truman's $10,000 million Appropriations Bill and by increasing pressure on the British Government that British lads be used as ground troops in Korea.

LET US MEDIATE

"We may have our differences in this country; the differences between Left and Right, differences between employer and employee, but we can resolve them without atom bombs. International differences, I am convinced, can also be resolved without atom bombs.

"If other countries have quarrels with each other, should Britain take the part of one or the other and be misunderstood by both, or should we, through the United Nations Organisation, act as the mediator? We should not take sides in the international conflicts developing. We should, through the U.N.O., take the position of mediator to stop all wars. We are not the great power that we were.

"We have nothing to gain from war, even from an imperialist point of view. We have everything to gain by making the United Nations Organisation work for the purpose for which it was established. Equally, we have nothing to gain by tolerating anybody using atom bombs. We are ourselves one of the most vulnerable countries, and we have not even got the atom bomb ourselves to gain the satanic satisfaction of throwing it at someone else if they throw it at us.

"I believe that Britain could, and would, win the respect of this generation all over the world if our Government took the lead to secure the outlawing of atomic weapons. Britain must take that lead, for that is the only way out. Negotiations by the Great Powers within the United Nations Organisation must mean not only the outlawing of the atom bomb, but the ending of war altogether. Negotiation would pave the way for disarmament and create mutual understanding."

SCOTTISH MINERS' SUPPORT

"I want to say that I can stand here in the name of the Scottish miners and say that they have gone on record for the banning of all atomic weapons," stated **Mr. John Wood.** He was moving the resolution in support of the Stockholm appeal.

Mr Wood went on to say:

"It is not sufficient simply to come to this rostrum and talk on the basis of the resolution, not sufficient to talk of obstacles in our way, not sufficient to talk of the

inevitability of war or the non-inevitability of war—the problem for every one of us here and the pledge we must give before we leave is, *when we go back we become active participants on the doorstep with a petition for the defence of all partisans of peace.*"

"Popski" says it's beyond a joke

Colonel Vladimir Peniakoff (better known as "Popski", of "Popski's Private Army" fame), was a surprise speaker at the Conference.

The man who organised groups of partisans behind the fascist and Nazi lines during the war had this to say to the British Partisans of Peace:

"You may think that I am here under false pretences. I am perhaps better known as the man who fought together with the partisans in Italy than for my activities with the partisans of peace. I am the gentleman who, you are told, enjoyed the war. It is perfectly obvious that in the whole world there are men who, like myself, enjoy war in some way, otherwise there would be no wars at all—you wouldn't get anybody to fight them. In that way I feel that by my example, and the influence I have had, in a way I am responsible for the state of things where wars are possible. However, whether we enjoy our little old-fashioned type of warfare or not is beside the point. Atomic weapons are an entirely different thing. *Atom bombs are getting rather beyond a joke.*

"But this business of that atom bomb is our business. By that I mean myself, you here in this hall and our friends outside and the people of Great Britain. You know the people have a comfortable habit of allowing their business to be managed by others.

VERY UNCOMFORTABLE

"But now in the last few months and particularly quite recently I find amongst all my friends—and I have very many friends in very different walks of life—there is an uncomfortable feeling that their business is being muddled. The time has come to do something about it and that is why I am standing here, a notorious warmonger, because I feel that something should be done about it. I will not try to persuade you because I know that you all think the same way as I do about these matters, but *we have got to persuade our friends who are lazy or shy that the time has come for them to do something about it!* That will not be difficult because in the present world everybody feels that things are not as they should be. We have to persuade our friends that there is something they can do about it, about the atom bomb; and I believe there is, and I hope, too, that you believe me when I say this."

I SAW HIROSHIMA

Jack Arnison, a delegate from the **Manchester Peace Committee,** moved the Conference with the account of his visit to Hiroshima after the atom bomb had been dropped:

"I want to tell you of an incident that happened on my visit to Hiroshima. Two of us noticed some smoke coming from the ruins of rubble and dirt, and we went to investigate. We came across an old shack with a Japanese family living in it. The man of the house assured us that he thought the Americans were *gentlemen*! We tried to tell him we were British, but I knew at that moment, rightly or wrongly, that I would always feel responsible for what happened in Hiroshima.

"That it why I am in this campaign to fight those people who say that a third world war is inevitable."

"SPARKS" FOR PEACE

GAS VICTIM

Mr. Sid Varney, representing 55,000 members of the **Electrical Trades Union** in London, said:

"If one casts one's mind back to the First World War, if one is old enough, and to the Second World War, the horrors are vivid. I was unfortunate enough to be the only survivor from a gas attack on a British unit in the First World War. Even during the Second World War I thought when bombs dropped on London that gas was coming.

"It is not enough to work for the banning of the atom bomb, because if it is banned some fool will no doubt invent something much worse. We must get a brotherhood of mankind to win peace."

Mr. Aldridge hits out

James Aldridge (author of the popular novel *The Diplomat*), said he was in the peace movement because of deep-rooted conviction.

"In this I believe I can identify myself with almost every one of you, for who isn't in this movement by conviction. I have never yet found in this movement a cynic, a brute, a cheapskate or a hypocrite. *I find myself always here among people who are concerned only for the whole preservation of humanity.*

"I find myself among people who are the most outspoken people in the community against the terrors of another war; and above all I have found myself among people who have the courage to belong to a movement which stupid men have tried to vilify and destroy by the cheapest epithets in the language.

"Leader writers and gossip columnists in our press may call us names and try socially to ostracise us for what we do. But knowing these men, and knowing their moral and historical ignorance, it revolts me to even feel challenged by their accusations, for our principal critics are never men who attack us by conviction, but by mere cynical duty to the lords who command them."

Prof. Bernal's Prophecy

Professor J. D. Bernal, leading British scientist well known for his courageous stand for peace, said:

"We are at the beginning of a new official drive to increase armaments, to emphasising every feature which is warlike in our culture, and to shutting down every peaceful feature.

"We know what the meaning of the speeches of President Truman—and now of Mr. Attlee—are going to mean in the next few months. We know that the hundreds of millions we are spending on armaments will be very much raised."

P.P.U. Delegate

Delegate from the local branch of the **Peace Pledge Union Group** was **Mr. Rodney Alexander,** of Tyneside. He is also a member of the Tyneside Youth for Peace Committee.

Said Mr. Alexander:

"Our Branch of the Peace Pledge Union supports the Petition . . . I think it is a pity that the P.P.U. and the Labour Party have not supported the Petition."

In Defence of Peace

Mr. Peter Blackman, the West Indian poet well known for his consistent championship of the coloured peoples, held up a copy of *In Defence of Peace,* the monthly journal of the World Peace Committee, for Conference to see.

Said Mr. Blackman:

"This journal is very little known to our English speaking people. Just a week ago a group of holiday-makers were in Paris with Progressive Tours. One of the people connected with Progressive Tours came along to see me and suggested that I should attend a meeting the people on holiday had organised. I went to the meeting, and the person responsible for the allocation of time on the platform said to me: 'I am sorry, but you won't be able to speak about the Journal.'

"When I explained I had specifically come along for that purpose, he said: 'But this is a peace meeting.' I commented: 'All the more reason to speak about this Journal which is the organ of the World Peace Movement.' *It turned out that he had never heard of the Journal.*"

Not only the people of Great Britain but also "the people of the U.S.A., Australia, Canada and the whole of the colonial Empire" should be interested in the English edition of *In Defence of Peace.*

LEEDS LECTURER

Dr. Kettle, lecturer at Leeds University, and a member of the **Leeds Peace Committee,** dealt with some of the problems met with in collecting signatures for the Petition.

Said Dr. Kettle: *"Have we yet really faced the question as to what we as a peace movement, not we as individual members of particular parties, and organisations such as the trade unions, but what we as a united peace movement think, and want to put forward as our programme?"*

YOUTH IN ACTION

Some heartening examples of what young people were doing for peace were given by **Derek Lewis,** Secretary of the **International Youth Council.**

Said he: "We estimate that 150,000 signatures to the Peace Petition have been gained by young people."

HELP THE YOUTH

"I want to ask every delegate here to help win young people for our noble aim. I want to propose four ways in which you can help.

1. By seeing that your Peace Committee turns its attention to young people and gets the Petition taken into youth clubs and to the apprentices, boys or girls in the factories.

2. By every delegate and local Peace Committee trying to bring young people together, into the Youth Peace Petition Committee of the Youth Peace Group, for the collection of signatures in order that they can campaign in a youthful and cultural way.

3. By helping young people to organise hikes and cycle trips, taking the Petition out to the mining and agricultural villages, and other forms of outdoor activity, particularly in the summer months; and by helping us to organise the World Youth Relay Race, which is taking a message of peace from the youth of the world to the World Peace Congress in Warsaw.

4. By assisting in the selection of the **four or five best young collectors to go on a free holiday to Hungary.** I would ask you to let the I.Y.C. have all the information about your best young collectors within the next week in order that our Selection Committee can select them."

Backcloth behind speakers shows that "Peace" is written differently in other languages but the meaning is universal

SHOP STEWARD

"When we received a copy of the Peace Petition on our Committee, it was unanimously decided that we should set ourselves a target of 2,000 signatures and do everything we possibly could to support the activities of the British Peace Committee," reported **Peter Nicholas**, leading **Shop Steward from the Rover Motor Car Works**, Birmingham.

In his opinion more needed to be done to get factory workers supporting the Petition. "We find," he said, "in the factories, in obtaining signatures, that there is a certain amount of opposition. Sometimes this shows itself as apathy on the part of the workers and they say the Petition will not do any good. But I believe that if we put our arguments to them, we can win them."

HORNER'S WARNING

"I read yesterday morning that a colleague of mine had denounced this Conference and I wish to announce publicly that he did so in his personal capacity!" said **Arthur Horner**, General Secretary of the **National Union of Mineworkers**, addressing the Conference in a personal capacity, referring to a statement made by the Union Chairman, Sir William Lawther.

MURPHY'S STORY

"I have come to the conclusion", Mr. Horner said, "that the ordinary human being is incapable in prospect of appreciating what war actually means. It is only in the actual participation of war that the true horrors of it are revealed.

"Yesterday I heard this story, which emphasises the reality against the expectancy of war. It was said in the last war that troops were ordered to go 'over the top' and Murphy, amongst the troops, got to the top of the trench, and quickly sank back when he saw what was happening on the top.

"An officer, leading from behind, said to Murphy: 'Don't you know your comrades are fighting out there?' 'Fighting!' said Murphy. 'They are *killing* each other.'

"Turning that joke into a serious vein, I think it is true that war appeals to people before it happens. Then it is fighting each other. But when it does happen, it is killing each other. That's what is happening in Malaya, in Indonesia and in Korea at the present time. I think nothing is truer today than that statement Litvinov so wisely made years ago: 'Peace is indivisible.' And peace today cannot be said to exist in this world so long as human beings are killing each other in various parts of the world.

"Ultimately, if these policies continue, we shall be drawn into this holocaust, and it will not only be Koreans and Malayans who are dying, it will be Britishers, Scotsmen, Welshmen, English and Irish, who will be suffering the terrible consequences of the misleadership of those who have controlled our affairs."

ARMS BEFORE MEDICINE

Dr. Mary Barnett told delegates: "I represent a Branch of the **Association of Scientific Workers**, which consists almost entirely of members of the medical profession.

"In the Civil Estimates for 1950-51, the Army, Navy and Air Force were given £66.7 million, while medical research through the Medical Research Council, the main medical research body in this country, was given £1.7 million.

Schoolgirl says her piece

"I am a delegate from a Peace Committee in a **London Girls' Grammar School.** The Committee consists of one representative elected by the peace supporters in each form," reported charming, fifteen-year-old **Geraldine Chalmers**, pupil at a Hampstead school.

"In my own school we have not been as active as we could be; other schools have done better. This is mainly because we have found a certain amount of apathy among our fellow students. We have found that people say: 'What good will it do?' when we ask them to sign the petition."

A CYCLIST SPEAKS

Young people do not want war, said **George Pearce,** National Committee member of the 6,000-strong **Clarion Cycling Club,** "but many of them are affected by propaganda in favour of war, because they have not personally experienced the horrors of war, and can be influenced by propaganda which seeks to glamourise war.

"We have yet to find the correct approach to youth. We must make peace as exciting as the other side attempt to make war, because there is a vital necessity that *youth should be won for the peace movement.*"

COME ON, MEN!

"I think if the men in trade unions had organised as women have done, the number of signatures collected, good as it is, would have been even better," said **Mrs. Massie,** an elected representative of the **Women's Co-operative Guild, Shepherd's Bush.** "We have collected through my Guild over 1,000, and for a small organisation that is not bad. We are trying to collect another 1,000. We notice that 95 per cent of the women signed. Women are much more decisive about their hatred of war. Opposition was amongst the men."

STUDENTS' GREETING

Nancy McQuibbon brought greetings from the **National Student Peace Conference** and the 50,000 students represented there.

"We know only too well that education is one of the first things to be cut when war is being prepared. Grants for students have already been cut. Teachers training colleges are closing down—although the need for teachers is still great. The whole programme of university expansion has been cut by war preparations. In its place we have the stockpiling of atom bombs, plans for evacuation, conscription and war in Korea. *A programme for life has become a programme for death.*

PEACE ROUND THE WORLD

Five delegates from Peace organisations in other countries brought greetings, and stories of the Peace movement abroad, to Conference

CANADIAN MOTHER

Mrs. Fairley, a typical mother who "has spent most of her life in bringing up children", represented the **Canadian Peace Movement.** She described the difficulties which had to be faced in a complex country like Canada, with a huge area and a small population, where the English-speaking population is subjected to "a daily and hourly barrage of propaganda". "We are much nearer to the United States propaganda than you are", she remarked.

Speaking of the French population, Mrs. Fairley said: "About one-third of our population does not speak English but French. Perhaps there is this advantage that they cannot understand American propaganda on the radio. But unfortunately Quebec, the French province, is already a police state. No hall can be got in Montreal, no public meetings can be held out of doors because of the provincial police and the French Canadians and the English Canadians have to find means of reaching the French-speaking people. It is extremely difficult.

"I would like to pay a tribute here to the French-Canadian people who, despite enormous difficulties are creating a peace movement of their own."

235,000,000

News of the World Movement for Peace was given by **M. Gilbert de Chambrun,** who announced, amidst enthusiastic applause, that 235,000,000 signatures to the Stockholm Appeal have now been handed in throughout the world.

"There is not a single country", said M. Chambrun, "where the Stockholm Appeal has not been signed. In fifty-two countries we have important results. The Stockholm Appeal is signed even in the countries where its signing is prohibited by the Government,

APPEAL

TO THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN

FROM THE 1950 BRITISH PEACE CONFERENCE

PEOPLE OF BRITAIN! We call upon you to do everything in your power to preserve this land and the whole world from the incalculable horrors of a third World War.

There is no issue facing the nations which cannot be settled by peaceful means.

Lend support to every endeavour, from wherever it may come, to bring together round the conference table the five great powers whose co-operation is ultimately essential to the preservation of peace.

We welcome the efforts of all organisations and individuals, whatever their viewpoint, sincerely working for peace. We urge wholehearted support to the Stockholm Appeal of the World Committee of Defenders of the Peace, which runs as follows:

WE DEMAND the absolute banning of the atomic weapon, an arm of terror and of mass extermination of populations.

WE DEMAND the establishment of strict international control to ensure the implementation of this ban.

WE CONSIDER that the first government henceforth to use the atomic weapon against any country whatsoever will be committing a crime against humanity and should be treated as a war criminal.

We call on all people of good will throughout the world to sign this appeal.

Already this appeal has brought into being the greatest world movement for peace in the history of mankind. Already it has received the individual support of more than 280,000,000 persons in sixty countries and the collective support of several States and thousands of organisations.

Join with us and play your part in this crusade of peace by rallying behind the British Peace Committee's great Petition to Parliament embodying this appeal.
Ban the atom bomb! Control and ensure the fulfilment of the ban! Declare the first government to use it henceforth, against any country, a war criminal!

No difference of party political opinion or religious faith can justify standing aside from the effort to outlaw this weapon, abolition of which is the declared policy of every government in the world, and use of which threatens not only certain destruction to our country, but the survival of civilisation itself.
Let those who today are advocating its use be warned that, should this crime be committed, those responsible will assuredly stand indicted before an outraged humanity.

The peoples of the earth possess the power to secure the peace. Share in their efforts to dispel the shadow of atomic war, knowing that success will open the way toward the ending of war itself, so that mankind at last may dwell in peace.

for instance, in Yugoslavia, and in such countries, the Stockholm Appeal is signed under a ban. People are already in some countries risking their lives and liberty in order to sign the Appeal to ban the Atom Bomb."

NO SENSE

As to those who asked, "what is the use of this world-wide campaign for signatures?" M. de Chambrun replied as follows:

"We must say some of our friends as well as some of our foes at the beginning said 'What is the use of the Stockholm Appeal?' Now this argument fails to be sense because you see the results. After the Stockholm Appeal the Red Cross, the high authority of the Red Cross, met and made a declaration to ban the Atomic Bomb. A few weeks ago Archbishops of the Catholic Church of France met and made a declaration to ban the Atomic Bomb. It is highly probable that those authorities would perhaps have been more discreet and more reserved if there had not been a vast world movement to ban the Atomic Bomb.

"Another result: it is very probable that in Korea the Atom Bomb would have been thrown by people who say, for instance, that the question of the kind of arms you use is very secondary—whether you use your fists or the Atomic Bomb. They might have used the Atom Bomb."

In conclusion, M. de Chambrun said: "We must never tire of asking people to sign. That means that all together, hand in hand, we will win the most wonderful battle, the battle for Peace. Peace will win."

AUSTRALIAN U.N. DELEGATE

Mrs. Jessie Street, one of Australia's leading women and one of the **Australian delegates** to the foundation Conference of the United Nations, told of the peace movement in Australia and drew special attention to its present effect in America.

Mrs. Street first paid a tribute to the great work for peace done by the Dean of Canterbury on his recent visit to her country. Stressing that powerful vested interests had "adopted a campaign to promote war", she pointed to the strength of the world-wide movement for peace which is already having a marked effect in the U.S.A. She gave the following examples:

"I have extracts from recent papers showing that some of the leading personalities in the United States are opposed to using the atom bomb. The *News Chronicle*, on July 20, published this statement by General Eisenhower: 'It is imperative that we stand before the world as champions of decency.' He does not believe that the atom bomb should be used in Korea.

"The Military Correspondent of the *New York Times*, a former naval officer, says that he is against dropping the atom bomb.

"Senator McMahon, Chairman of the Joint Atomic Committee of the United States, says America should not use the atom bomb either against the Russians or the Northern Koreans. Another one, a woman representative of Congress of Ohio says: 'To use it simply to kill Koreans would give Orientals reason to believe that we really are against Orientals.'

"I claim that these changes of heart on the part of these prominent Americans against using the atom bomb is largely a result of these peace conferences and the Stockholm Peace Appeal which has been launched throughout the world," said Mrs. Street.

Mrs. Street, all peace workers will be glad to know, is staying in Britain for the next few months and is available to be booked to speak at meetings. Apply to 1A Park Crescent, W.1. LANgham 4822.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Experiences from the **Merseyside Peace Committee,** were given by **Miss Edwards:**

"Our Peace Committee has already collected 20,000 signatures.

"We inserted an advertisement in a local paper, and got an amazing response from all sorts of people from all walks of life. Co-operative Women's Guilds have specially done a magnificent job. One cripple collected 350 signatures going round on a bicycle. Other people can do the same. We want to get a situation whereby every possible person must sign this Petition.

"This Petition is the answer to all propaganda. It is our only weapon, and I think we are going to be successful."

COURAGEOUS CATHOLIC PRIEST

The courageous Catholic priest, the **Abbé Jean Boulier** from **Paris**, brought an encouraging message of unity of Catholics and Communists in France in the cause of Peace.

The Abbé Jean Boulier laid great stress on the continuity, in the present united peace campaign in France, with the great united campaign of the Resistance Movement against the Nazis. "We are fighting now in France," he said, "the same fight

against the same people." In the cause of achieving a better world, he said, "we have reached agreement with the Communists, and this is why clerks in Holy Orders, clerics, laymen and others who support us are called 'fellow travellers'.

"Yes, we are fellows—fellows in human fellowship, gaining strength in the knowledge that we are fighting for peace for all mankind."

In concluding his speech the Abbe referred to the war in Korea which can strengthen our work for peace. "Now", he said, "we are not discussing war in the abstract. This war must be stopped.

"We should remember the old proverb *'the lie got up early in the morning—before noon the truth caught him up'*. Now, through the vital shadows of life and death, truth is walking through the world. The task of the world movement is to give power and strength to the truth. We shall fulfil this task, and I bring greetings to you in Britain and wish you success in the common fight for peace."

ILYA EHRENBURG
regrets

The world-famous writer, **Ilya Ehrenburg**, whose name became known throughout the democratic world during the war because of his wonderful writings against German Nazism, brought a warm message of Peace from Russia.

Regretting he could not speak English because this language was not taught in Russia in his youth, Ehrenburg said: "Today English is taught not only in city secondary schools, but also in many village schools. There are many students who specialise in this language, and I should like to note that the young men and women I have had the occasion to talk to have chosen the English language not because it is the language of Washington press conferences or New York offices, but because it is the language of Shakespeare, Swift, Thackeray, Byron, Shelley, Keats and Dickens.

"Despite sanguinary conflicts between our countries in the past," he said, "the ordinary Russian was never unfriendly towards the ordinary Englishman."

When the recent war was won, "the common victory was a common festival." But today there is new talk of war and the first call for it came at Fulton not in the Ameri-

Ilya Ehrenburg (below), brought a message of friendship from the Russian people. His brilliant statement deeply moved the delegates

can dialect, but in good English. "Nevertheless," said Ehrenburg, "we have allies in Britain today; we are proud of them; they are people of different classes, different religions, different political views. They detest war just as we do."

Turning to the opponents of the Peace Petition, Ehrenburg said he wanted to answer some of their arguments in all frankness. "They say", he went on, "that the demand for banning the atom bomb is an advantage to the Soviet people and a disadvantage to the Americans. This is absurd, for it is generally known that the atomic weapon has long ceased to be an American monopoly.

BOMB v. PEOPLE

"Since the atom bomb is no longer a monopoly of any one country," Ehrenburg went on, "everyone will understand that the number of bombs dropped upon cities cannot decide the outcome of military operations. The demand for the prohibition of the atomic weapon is an equal advantage or equal disadvantage to either side. It is a disadvantage to the shareholders of the aircraft factories, to the owners of the uranium ore, to the newspaper blackmailers, but it is an advantage to the plain people the world over. I believe that it makes no difference to the inhabitants of Manchester or Edinburgh whether they perish from a 'Western' or 'Eastern' bomb, and they are therefore interested in the prohibition of the atomic weapon. **The two sides involved in this question are not America and the Soviet Union. The two sides involved in this question are: the bomb and the people.**"

But some say that the Petition is "Communist". To these people Ehrenburg made the following reply:

"One Labour man told me: 'I agree with the text of the Stockholm Appeal, but I do not want my signature to get lost among the signatures of the British Communists.' It sounds childish; for no sooner do all British non-Communists join in the demand for outlawing the atomic weapon than the signatures of the Communists will be 'lost' among millions of other signatures."

PRECIOUS HOURS

In conclusion, Ehrenburg made this dramatic appeal to the people of Britain:

"There is no time to be lost: events are developing with unprecedented speed. Every hour is precious. We see that in Asia the 'cold war' has already developed into a real war. Some American Congressmen already say that it would be well to drop an atom bomb on 'unruly' Korea. Someone keeps on striking matches, and the gunpowder is close by . . . we must achieve the prohibition of the atomic weapon. We must bring about an end to the wars in Asia. We must safeguard the fragile peace and make it stable. *We know that the principles of morality are deeply rooted in the heart of every Englishman, and it is therefore with hope that I am following your activities: we shall save the ancient memorials, we shall save the lovely green trees, we shall save the children, we shall save the peace!*"

"We are very much taboo" says D. N. PRITT, K.C.

In a speech bristling with barbed wit and irony, **Mr. D. N. Pritt, K.C.**, Independent Socialist M.P. for North Hammersmith from 1935 to 1950, crossed the t's and dotted the i's of the Conference.

Said Mr. Pritt: "Now we come to the end of, I think, a very businesslike and forthright put-it-on-the-ground Conference, which I have been very happy to sit through. We are very much taboo. Of course we are. Peace is always taboo. If it were not repressed by all the means its enemies can command, if people were allowed freedom of speech to discuss peace, there would be no war. So it was inevitable that we should be either ignored or abused. The usual technique is to start by ignoring us. We were of less importance for months than the underclothes of a lawn-tennis player—and now we are too strong to be ignored, so we are abused. It makes me feel at home. It makes me sure we are on the right path. We must not treat it lightly. We do not treat it lightly; but it is an encouraging tribute to us, showing that lies do not win in the long run.

"We are the most hopeful feature of the new world. Don't make any mistake. We in this country are progressing. We are gaining strength. You heard the figures. Do not fool yourselves. It is due partly to us, although more to people outside, that the atom bomb has not been dropped already.

"But don't let us make any mistake. We have only begun, and begun slowly, a mighty task, and time passes. We have to broaden and deepen and strengthen and grow. We must bring into our ranks everybody who wants peace and who believes that if we ban the atom bomb we take the first great co-ordinating step towards bringing about the banning of war itself. You know that ought to mean everybody. In a few short months it has meant one-eighth of the total population of the world. It is a tremendous movement.

"WIN A COLD?"

"We know what **our** policy is. What is the policy of those who disapprove of us, who uphold the policy imposed on this Government? It is a pretty sterile, pretty negative policy. It is of continuing the third world war, not stopping it, a policy, I gather from some of their speakers, of winning the 'cold war'. How do you win a 'cold war'? You cannot win a 'cold war' any more than you can win a cold. Leave a cold alone, it turns into pneumonia. Leave a 'cold war', it turns into a 'hot war'. Who wins that? No one.

"The other part of their policy—the arms race. What does that turn into? Not only a war but a destruction of our standards of living, a destruction of our research, of our morale, of our social conditions. Those shouting at the moment for the arms race are so hysterical that one becomes convinced that the people who want more arms are the people who gave Syngman Rhee the word to go ahead.

"A word about our task and our policy. We want friendship with all the peoples. We want friendship with the American people. We have got to get across the propaganda and talk to them. We want friendship with the peoples of the U.S.S.R. as well. They stand in the forefront in the battle for peace. They are the only country that has proposed disarmament — and hostility to that country is based on a war policy and we must fight that war policy as part of the fight to ban the bomb. We must win, to fight with us, even people who might have been poisoned against the Soviet Union. Until we can clear their minds, the danger of war is great."

Warmly praising the speech made to Conference by the Soviet delegate, Ilya Ehrenburg, Mr. Pritt then said:

"Roosevelt, in the last speech he ever wrote, said this: 'We must cultivate . . . the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together and work together in the same world, at peace. . . . The work, my friends, is peace, more than an end to this war, an end to the beginnings of all wars, yes, an end for ever to this impractical, unrealistic, settlement of differences between governments by the mass killing of peoples.'

"Roosevelt died before he delivered that speech, and he was succeeded by Truman. When Roosevelt died, the flags over the Kremlin were draped in mourning.

"We have to renew the struggle—his struggle, our struggle, humanity's struggle—in closer and ever closer unity with our friends in Europe, more and more unity intensively among ourselves."

In a storm of applause, Mr. Pritt concluded with these words: "Our strength will prevail over the few deadly, devilish men who play with the forces of destruction. We are many. They are few. We will prevail."

TWO RESOLUTIONS

THE STOCKHOLM APPEAL

WE, DELEGATES from all parts of Britain and from all walks of life gathered at the 1950 British Peace Conference, enthusiastically adopt and endorse the Stockholm Appeal against atomic weapons issued by the World Peace Committee in March 1950.

We pledge our support for the Peace Petition to Parliament as the embodiment in Britain of the world-wide movement of support to the Stockholm Appeal.

We believe that the implementation of the Petition's demands to ban atomic weapons with strict international control of the ban, and to brand the first government that henceforth uses them as a war criminal—will pave the way for further agreement by negotiation between the nations and thus avoid the horror of war for all time.

We British men and women, join with the hundreds of millions in every country who have already declared their support for the appeal, in expressing our common determination and will to remove the menace of atomic weapons and thereby contribute toward a secure peace and friendship between the nations.

The following Emergency Resolution on Korea was passed by Conference after a careful consideration of the facts

This British Peace Conference meets at a time when war in Korea is causing untold human suffering and threatens to spread into a world conflict.

The measures so far undertaken by the United States Government and supported by the British Government and others have already involved many of the most destructive aspects of modern warfare, among them the indiscriminate bombing and shelling of towns. These measures give no prospect of an early ending to hostilities, and only aggravate the possibility of their spread.

Already Formosa, recognised as part of the territory of China by international agreements to which both the U.S. and British Governments are parties, has arbitrarily been taken by the United States, under its authority, creating the danger that Great Britain may be dragged into war against the Chinese Republic. Already irresponsible voices are monstrously calling for employment of the atom bomb.

The endorsement of the military measures in Korea by resolution of the United Nations Security Council effected in the enforced absence of one permanent member, China, and without attendance of another, U.S.S.R., and, furthermore, without a hearing to one party to the dispute, undermines the moral basis of the United Nations and jeopardises its authority as the instrument for pacific settlement of disputes.

No solution imposed by force on the Korean people can achieve a lasting settlement of the problem, or help lessen the international tension which menaces world security.

We welcome the initiative of Pandit Nehru designed to secure a return of the United Nations to proper functioning and an ending to hostilities within its framework.

We call on the British Government, which has recognised the Chinese People's Government as the Government of China to press forward and insist on the immediate reconstitution of the Security Council with the inclusion of China provided by the Charter, in order that the Council may return to its all-inclusive character and effectively contribute to the speedy ending of hostilities and the securing of a just and independent future for the Korean people.

5,000,000 BY OCTOBER

says Joyce Smith, B.P.C. Secretary

Joyce Smith, Secretary of the **British Peace Committee,** opening her report on the work of the Committee said it was founded at a time when "it would have been criminal NOT to have established such a movement."

The Peace Petition had been given a tremendous welcome from the very outset.

Said Mrs. Smith: "No less than 790,277 signatures have actually been received at the office . . . and if you know, as I do, how difficult it is to get the forms returned, I suggest to you that this figure is something like half of the total number who have in fact signed this great peace petition.

"It is a tremendous achievement. But we have got to realise right away that this is only the beginning.

"*Our Executive have set the target of 5 million by October*" Quoting some inspiring examples of signature collecting from various part of Britain, two aims were then put before the Conference by Joyce Smith:

"I would like us to take a pledge from here that we will get 100,000 *volunteers for peace. That should be our slogan:* 100,000 *volunteers! And we must send a powerful delegation from Britain to the 2nd World Peace Congress."*

HOW IT'S DONE

Personal example is the way to lead for peace. Collect signatures yourself and draw in your neighbours, your friends at work and other members of any organisation to which you belong. Get them all collecting with you. Enrol them as one of the HUNDRED THOUSAND PEACE WORKERS needed in Britain. Without their aid we will not get those five million signatures.

*

Are you a "THOUSANDER"? What is it? Well, any peace worker collecting a thousand signatures becomes a "Thousander". Enlist now!

How can you tell a peace worker? Simple: they wear a dove and carry a Petition—and they talk peace wherever they are.

*

You work in a factory, or some other industrial enterprise? Good, then get the shop stewards to sponsor the Petition. And the management, too!

Competition! As much as can be developed: workshop versus workshop; factory versus factory; trade union branch versus trade union branch; Co-operative Guild versus Co-operative Guild; street versus street; person versus person. Anything you can do I can do better—for peace!

Peace tables and stalls are a definite success! Let's have them everywhere: in your workshop or canteen, if possible. Failing that, outside the gate, in the local market place, at busy street corners and shopping centres, on holiday beaches and in parks, near bus queues and railway stations. Make them colourful: plenty of graphic pictures.

And what about the SHOPKEEPER? Why not get him to hang a form up in the shop for the benefit of the customers? Remind him: "The customer is always right."

★

What, no Peace Committee in your factory, borough, town or county? Through such gaps in the defensive front line of the "peace" the enemy "war" is infiltrating. Close the gaps. Set up Peace Committees everywhere—now.

"Say, Milkman, Insurance Man, Baker." Yes, anyone whose work means meeting people. Persuade them to carry peace with them on their rounds. Give them the Petition forms.

*

Listen, we're not telling you how to collect signatures or organise the peace movement in your area. The point is: be flexible, be imaginative, be daring, be bold, have initiative. Work always to get the best results.

Ah, and don't forget: let that local paper, or trade union paper, know all about what's going on. Shower in letters, articles, news items!

CHURCH and the State

A packed congregation heard the Dean of Canterbury reproach the churches for their lack of protest against the atom bomb, when he preached at a service held after the first day of the Conference.

The service, held at the Church of St. George the Martyr, Queen Square, Holborn, was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Mercer Wilson.

It opened with three verses of the

National Anthem, including the seldom-sung lines:

Lord make the nations see,
That men should brothers be,
And form one family,
The wide world o'er.

After prayers for peace, there followed Psalm 46, that declaration of faith in troubled times. Then followed the Lesson, read by the Rev. O. Fielding-Clarke; a tenor solo by Mr. Cragg Sinkinson, accompanied by Mr. Clark at the organ; and "Oh God, Our Help in Ages Past", sung by the congregation.

The Rev. R. Mercer Wilson, the Dean of Canterbury and the Rev. O. Fielding-Clarke before the Service.

"SUB-HUMAN"

The Very Rev. Hewlett Johnson, Dean of Canterbury, opened his sermon by saying that a hydrogen bomb on London would rock the towers of Canterbury Cathedral, would melt stones sixty miles away. He was recalling that five years ago to the day between 70,000 and 100,000 people had been killed in a Japanese town by a single atom bomb, and he quoted the Chinese view that the Americans must have regarded the Japanese as "sub-human" to annihilate them on such a scale.

Turning to the churches' record in the face of this attack, the Dean remarked that such leaders as the Archbishops of Canterbury and York had spoken against the bomb.

"But has there been a great wave of protest through the Anglican and other churches comparable with the wave of protest in the outside world?" he asked.

It denoted decadence in religion when the moral conscience of the world was ahead of the moral conscience of religion, he said, adding that the world's conscience was never ahead of the great creative sources of the great religions: Christ had been far ahead of the conscience of the world of His time.

"The present world-wide campaign against the atom bomb," said the Dean, "had already borne fruit: Gen. Eisenhower himself opposed the use of the bomb in Korea for fear of the judgment of the peoples of the world.

"If the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish Churches," he said, "had joined the Socialists and Communists and all men of good-will, there could be no talk of war—if they operated such principles as 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself'."

Then he pointed to the link between the message of the Gospels and such principles as "Each for all and all for each" and "From each according to his ability and to each according to his needs."

JUDGED BY ACTIONS

After describing his experiences in Czechoslovakia, where the churches were working with the leaders of the State in the cause of peace, the Dean mentioned the millions who had now signed the Stockholm petition against the atom bomb in the U.S.S.R., in China, in Czechoslovakia, France and Italy. He had attended, he said, vast meetings in Canada and Australia which had been held despite every official discouragement.

"Christ said," continued the Dean, "that we should be judged, not by our creed or prayers or place of worship, but by our actions.

"I believe," he concluded, "that those 'Communists' who are working for peace from day to day are nearer to Christ than those Christians who talk about it, but do nothing."

On the GENERAL COUNCIL of the British Peace Committee

elected by the Conference are many well-known persons from all walks of life, including leading members of a number of mass organisations.

Pending their acceptance provision was made for other persons and representatives of organisations to be brought on to the Council.

Among those elected, and who have accepted office, are :

Ruby M. Ayres, the well-known novelist; composers Cyril Scott and Rutland Boughton ("The Immortal Hour"); Professor Benjamin Farrington, of University College, Swansea, classical scholar and author; Patrick Hamilton, author and playwright ("Tuppence Coloured", "Gaslight", "Rope", etc.); the Reverends Alex Reid, C. C. J. Butlin and E. Charles; National Clarion Cycling Club Executive member, Mr. George Pearce; journalist Gordon Schaffer; Dr. S. R. Marcus, Socialist Medical Association; W. Wainwright, British Soviet Friendship Society; youth leaders Derek Lewis (International Youth Council), Jean Jacobs (Student Labour Federation), Nancy McQuibbon (National Student Peace Committee), N. Z. Nawaz (Federation of Indian Student Societies), and Brenda Chalmers (Schools Peace Group); trades unionists John Horner (General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union), John Wood (President of the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers), G. Collins (Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers), J. Stanley (Constructional Engineering Union), and L. C. White (Civil Servants' Clerical Association), the latter three being on the Council in their individual capacity.

Other Council members are representatives from women's organisations, factory groupings and Peace Committees covering major areas of Britain.

Mr. Dick Freeman, Mr. R. Palme Dutt, Dr. N. Pirie, J. Platts Mills, Mr. J. Jacobs, Mr M. R. Matthews, Councillor Sinclair and Professor H. Levy are also on the Council in an individual capacity.

Members of the World Peace Committee who are ex-officio members of the Council are: Elizabeth Allen, Mr. J. G. Crowther, D. N. Pritt, K.C., J. D. Buckle, Mr. Reg Birch, Professor J. D. Bernal, Dr. N. Wooster and Mr. Ivor Montagu, who is Secretary of the British side of the World Peace Bureau.

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